GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1646
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2001
IODINE AND VITAMIN A DEFICIENCY AMONG CHILDREN
ANADI CHARAN SAHU

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Nutrition Monitoring Bureau, has conducted any survey in Orissa regarding nutrition deficiency among the children of low income group;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the survey has indicated iodine and vitamin A deficiency among children; and

(d) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to provide nutritious food to the children suffering from the deficiencies?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. RITA VERMA)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. National Nutrition Monitoring Bureau (NNMB) has conducted diet and nutrition surveys including clinical nutritional deficiencies in urban slums, rural and tribal children in Orissa. Moderate and severe malnutrition was highest in the tribal children followed by rural children and those in urban slums.

(c) The prevalence of Vitamin `A` deficiency was reported as 2.5% for urban slums and 0.1% for tribal children.

(d) For improving the nutritional status of children in the country Government is taking following measures:

- Increased Agricultural Production.
- Improving the purchasing power of the people through income generating schemes.
- Availability of essential food items at subsidised cost through Public distribution system.
- Nutrition education to increase the awareness and bringing about the desired changes in the feeding practices including promotion of breast feeding.
- Supplementary feeding programmes such as:

(i) Integrated Child Development Services Scheme (ICDS)

(ii) Special Nutrition Programme(SNP)

(iii) Balwadi Nutrition Programme(BNP)

(iv) Wheat Based Supplementary Nutrition Programme

(v) Pradhan Mantri Grameen Yojna(PMGY)

(vi) Mid-day Meal Programme

- Programme for Prevention of Specific Nutrient Deficiency Disorders such as:

a) National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme;
b) Prophylaxis due to Vitamin `A` Deficiency and Nutritional Anaemia due to Iron deficiency as a part of Reproductive and Child Health Programme;

c) Pilot Project for Control of Micro nutrient Malnutrition.